

St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



***We Worship, We Love, We Serve
– No Matter What!***

February 4, 2024

**5th Sunday after Epiphany
9:30am**

We Worship

Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!

We are a place where love can grow!

As the music begins, please find your place and quietly center your spirit for our worship of God together.

Our Offering is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts to God of praise and gratitude, to be presented during the service. While guests are welcome to contribute, please know there is no obligation; the financial support of our church is primarily the responsibility of our congregation members.

Children's Faith Formation is integrated into the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the 'Blessed to Be a Blessing' lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom for a brief orientation and to sign them in. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.

*** Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship

Who, but the Lord
Craig Courtney

Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Steven Davis

- Welcome to Our Guests – please sign the red guest book!
- Sunday Social Hosts – Sign Up Schedule on red display
- Annual Meeting & Potluck Lunch, following worship today
- Lent begins February 14 with “Ash & Dash” 8-9am & 4-5pm and Soup & Bread Dinner 6pm and Worship 7pm

***Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

***Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Come, rejoice and sing! God's love is showered over you this day.

All: We gather to praise God and celebrate God's presence with us.

One: God shows compassion to all who are weak and downtrodden.

All: Jesus Christ offers healing mercies to our troubled souls.

One: Praise be to God who has called us here.

All: Thanks be to God for God's eternal love. Amen.

Opening Hymn*

God of Day and God of Darkness

Verses 1, 3, and 4

found on page 3 of the bulletin

***Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

All: God of love and healing, we gather today to hear the words of your love as you touch our hearts with holy balm. Open our hearts and spirits and let your merciful spirit dwell within us that, having heard the good news, we may bring that hope to others. This we pray in your most holy name, Amen.

Call to Confession

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: How amazing it is to us, O God of love, that you look into our hearts and forgive our wayward spirits. So many times we have succumbed to the temptations of this world, seeking comfort in its fleeting enticements. We have turned deaf ears on the cries of those in distress and walked away from opportunities to give aid and comfort.

All: Remind us again of how Jesus reached out to the multitudes who brought their problems and ailments to him. His compassionate touch not only healed their bodies but restored and renewed their spirits. Forgive our stubbornness and our selfishness. Give us hearts of compassion and lives willing to serve you by serving others. We offer this prayer of contrition in Jesus' name. Amen.

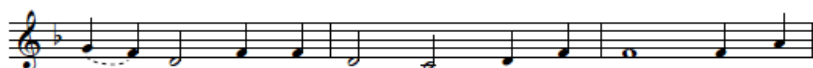
God of Day and God of Darkness



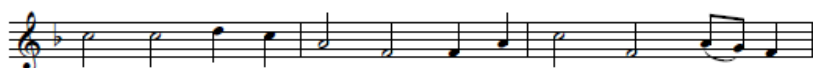
1. God of day and God of dark - ness, Now we
2. Still the na - tions curse the dark - ness, Still the
3. Show us Christ in one an - oth - er, Make us
4. You shall be the path that guides us, You the
5. Praise to you in day and dark - ness, You our



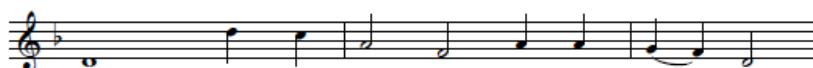
stand be - fore the night; As the shad - ows stretch and
 rich op - press the poor; Still the earth is bruised and
 ser - vants strong and true; Give us all your love of
 light that in us burns; Shin - ing deep with - in all
 source and you our end; Praise to you who love and



deep - en, Come and make our dark - ness bright. All cre -
 bro - ken By the ones who still want more. Come and
 jus - tice So we do what you would do. Let us
 peo - ple, Yours the love that we must learn, For our
 nur - ture us As a fa - ther, moth - er, friend. Grant us



a - tion still is groan - ing For the dawn - ing of your
 wake us from our sleep - ing, So our hearts can - not ig -
 call all peo - ple ho - ly, Let us pledge our lives a -
 hearts shall wan - der rest - less 'Til they safe to you re -
 all a peace - ful rest - ing, Let each mind and bod - y



might, When the Sun of peace and jus - tice
 nore All your peo - ple lost and bro - ken,
 new, Make us one with all the low - ly,
 turn; Find - ing you in one an - oth - er,
 mend, So we rise re - freshed to - mor - row,



Fills the earth with ra - diant light.
 All your chil - dren at our door.
 Let us all be one in you.
 We shall all your face dis - cern.
 Hearts re - newed to King - dom tend.

Text: Marry Haugen, b.1950, © 1985, 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: BEACH SPRING, 6 7 8 7 D, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844, harm. by Marry Haugen, b.1950

(Time for Silent Prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

One: Hear the good news! In this very instant, God has touched our hearts and offered God's healing and forgiving love.

All: **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen.**

Children's Message

Rev. Davis

Children and youth are welcome to come up to the chancel steps.

***Hymn**

There Is a Longing
Verses 1 and 3

THERE IS A LONGING

Anne Quigley

Refrain



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re-



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our hearts for

Verses



love we on - ly find in you, our God.

1. For jus - tice,
2. For wis - dom,
3. For heal - ing,
4. Lord save us,



1. for free - dom, for mer - cy: hear our prayer. In
2. for cour - age, for com - fort: hear our prayer. In
3. for whole - ness, for new life: hear our prayer. In
4. take pit - y, light in our dark - ness. We

to Refrain



1. sor - row, in grief:)
2. weak - ness, in fear:)
3. sick - ness, in death:)
4. call you, we wait:)

be near, hear our prayer, O God.

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***Scripture Reading**

Mark 1: 29-39

Scripture Reader: Linda Powell

One: The word of God for the people of God.

All: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Sung Response

**Ancient words ever true,
Changing me and changing you;
We have come with open hearts,
O let the ancient words impart.**

Sermon

Rev. Steve Davis

What We Came to Do!

Anthem

Lord of the Small
Dan Forrest

We Love

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Davis

Holy One, Everlasting God, who gives hope, healing and purpose to our living; we worship you as you give strength to the powerless and power to the faint; you raise up the sick and silence the voices of despair. Make us agents of healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, as we offer ourselves in prayer for these who share and name...

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Holy God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and know the Christ you sent to show us your love. All of this we pray in your many names, who became flesh and who taught us to pray...

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2024.*

We Are an Inclusive Community!

**In the United Church of Christ, we observe an
“Open Communion.” ALL persons are welcome to receive
the gifts of God’s grace and love with us at the table.
In the UCC, ALL means ALL!**

The Invitation to Receive

One: We come to the table of the Lord.

All: **Where children and adults sit side by side, where heaven
and earth embrace in peace, where God has been, is, and
always will be.**

One: We come to the table of the Lord.

All: **Where we find God's love, where we hear the tender voice
of Jesus, where the Spirit teaches us new songs.**

One: We come to the table of the Lord.

All: **Where we bring our hunger, and find food; where we
bring our brokenness, and find healing; where we bring
our very selves and find acceptance.**

Words of Institution and Consecration

Music During Communion

One Bread We Bless and Share
R. Manalo

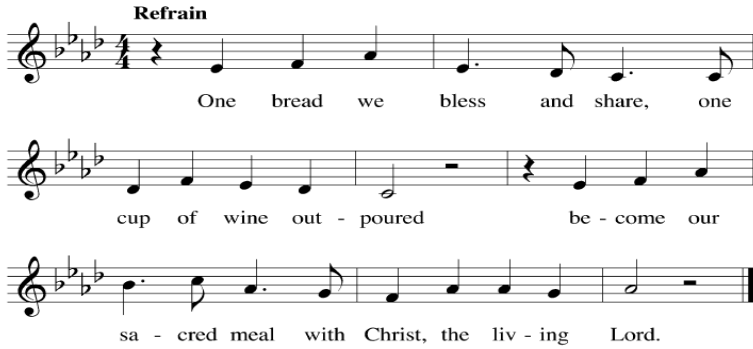
please join in singing the refrain to the hymn found on Page 7

ONE BREAD WE BLESS AND SHARE

Inspired by Didache 9

Words and Music by
Ricky Manalo

Refrain



One bread we bless and share, one
cup of wine out - poured be - come our
sa - cred meal with Christ, the liv - ing Lord.

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Sharing the Meal

*The elements will be passed in the pew.
We will receive the bread and eat at the same time,
then the cup is passed and all drink together.*

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

All: Amen

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us.

All: Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Davis

**All: Having shared in this holy meal, may it bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ.
Amen.**

Offering Our Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to God

Thank you for your generosity
and faithfulness in supporting
the ministry of St. John's UCC!



***Doxology** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer of Dedication** Liturgist: Sharon Czekner

All: Jesus healed with a touch and taught us that you are the source of the true healing that can make us whole. As we offer our gifts to you, we pray that they might be used to bring healing: of body, of spirit, of broken relationships, and healing of a world community that is deeply divided by distrust and self-interest. We pray this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

We Serve

***Closing Hymn** *In the Midst of New Dimensions*
Verses 1 and 2
found on page 9 of the bulletin

***The Benediction** Rev. Davis

Postlude

*When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship is concluded
and our service in the world continues.*

*The Benediction and Postlude send us out
to be the people of God in our community.*

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In the Midst of New Dimensions



1 In the midst of new di - men - sions, in the face of
 2 Through the flood of starv - ing peo - ple, war - ring fac - tions,
 3 As we stand, a world di - vid - ed by our own self -
 4 We are man and we are wom - an, all per - sua - sions,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre - dic - tions cause us to with -



chang - ing ways, who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples
 and de - spair, who will lift the ol - ive branch - es?
 seek - ing schemes, grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage,
 old and young, each a gift in your cre - a - tion,
 draw in pain, may your blaz - ing phoe - nix spir - it



Refrain



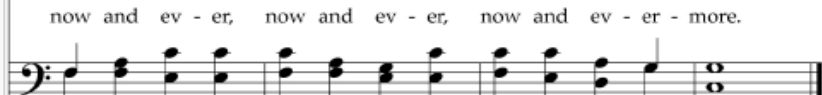
wan - dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will light the flame of care?
 might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams. God of rain - bow, fi - ery pil - lar,
 each a love song to be sung.
 res - ur - rect the church a - gain.



lead - ing where the ea - gles soar, we your peo - ple, ours the jour - ney



now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.



Altar Flowers

One vase in memory of mother Louise Smith by Linda Smith.

Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule

8:30am Adult Faith Formation

- Friendship Sunday School Class

9:30am Worship / Children's Faith Formation

- with Sunday Social time following worship

11:00am Confirmation Class and other Youth

Attendance – January 28

Onsite – 108 Online - 28

Serving in Worship Leadership

February 4

Liturgist – Sharon Czekner

Scripture Reader – Linda Powell

Ushers – DonnaLee Yeatts, Wendy Fox,

Sharon Antrim, Kay Chryst, Kim Hillegass Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Acolyte – Zachary Szoke

February 11

Liturgist – Open

Scripture Reader – Janet Ebert

Ushers – Open

Worship Tech – Open

Social Hosts – Nancy Bowman, Carol Raszler

Acolyte – Sophia Pagan

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Phyllis Ambearle, Clarence Biehn, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Tracey Glass, Phyllis Gutekunst, Geraldine Keim, David and Grace Mohr, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Dale Serfass, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

We pray for the family of Marion Brown, who died this past week. A private graveside service was held on Friday.

Continued prayers for those suffering from weather disasters across the US, as well as the war against Ukraine by Russia, now over 700 days, and the war between Israel and Hamas, and the Palestinian people. Pray for all the innocents killed and suffering in Gaza. Pray for actions to change policy and practice.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio.

If you or a family member is admitted to the hospital, tell them you are a member of St. John's or use the church code, **473**. If you have someone for us to remember in prayer, please contact the church office.

ST. JOHN'S SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship for 2024 is now available for anyone wishing to sponsor the following: Altar flowers are \$25.00 a vase, Bulletins are \$20, Wheat Basket, where the donation will go to the Food Pantry, is \$15, and the monthly newsletter is \$100.00. Please contact the church office for additional information or to sign up!

GENERAL DISASTER RELIEF FUND FOR UKRAINE

War didn't stop with the holidays. As the war in Ukraine reaches its third year, we are grateful to the UCC, along with their partners in Ukraine, for their commitment to continue giving humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian people. If you would like to make a contribution to UCC National for its work in the Ukraine, please mail your donation into the church office, place it in the offering plate, or contribute online or by text. You can also find General Disaster Fund envelopes on the table in the lounge area. Be sure to put "Ukraine Relief Fund" in the memo section.

"SOUPER BOWL OF CARING"

With all the excitement and spending associated with football's Super Bowl, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat. The "Souper Bowl of Caring" initiative started back in 1990 and has generated more than \$100 million for soup kitchens, food banks, and other charities in communities across the country. **For the entire month of February, we will be collecting all kinds of canned soups.** We particularly request everyone to bring a can of soup on Super Bowl Sunday, February 11. Our Confirmation Class will be on hand with soup pots after worship if you would like to give a monetary donation.

WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY

For February, we will be collecting cans of soup for the “Souper Bowl of Caring.” Looking ahead to Easter, donations of canned fruit, canned vegetables, and canned sweet potatoes are needed. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your food donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office or by online or text giving. If you would like to volunteer at the food pantry, please contact Gary Black at 484-274-2405 or email at gary.t.black@outlook.com.

NEWS FROM OUR CRAFTERS

We’re looking for someone to knit or crochet a new design for the 3”x3” prayer squares. We have plenty of yard available and can supply you with the pattern. Our Women’s Group Church Cookbook is now on sale for \$5.00. Look for our Easter & Spring Craft Sale on March 10 and March 17 in the lounge before and after worship.

BINGO!

St. John’s first Gift Card Bingo of 2024 will be held on Friday, March 15th. Tickets are now available, see Carol Raszler or Tom Moyer. You can help make this event another success by donating:

- Hot Dogs (Beef)
- Hot dog and Hamburger rolls
- A carton of Sprite (Regular or Diet)
- Box of small bags of snacks (chips, popcorn, etc.)
- A crockpot of Perogie Casserole (Any recipe)
- Items for “Tricky Tray” table. These can be gift cards or baskets or anything worth around \$20 to \$30.
- Sponsor a game for \$50. We’ll put your name in the program
- Your help and assistance that night.

Please contact Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler if you are able to donate any of these items. Thanks for your help. Don’t forget to get your tickets early!

GIANT & WEIS GROCERY CARDS

Giant and Weis grocery gift cards can be purchased here at St. John's. By doing so, you contribute 5% back to St. John's. They come in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$100. The gift cards can also be used to purchase gas. Look for Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler in the lounge area on Sunday or check with the church office during the week to make your purchases.

GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

You are invited to attend a grief support group at Asbury UM Church, 1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the upper-level Parlor and is led by Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Asbury's Pastor of Bereavement and Care Ministries. Please contact her at estupp@asburylv.org or 610-428-9095 for more details and to indicate your interest. The next support gathering is **Tuesday, February 27.**

REDNER'S SAVE-A-TAPE

Thanks to all of you who bring in receipts from Redner's. They do have some guidelines we need to follow. The whole receipt, and it needs to say Save-A-Tape. If you are not a member of Redner's Save-A-Tape program, please join – then make sure you use your customer card as you check out. If you use a charge card and do not want any numbers to show on the receipt, you can black them out. Thanks for your support.



**Weekly
Lenten Prayer Gatherings**

**Wednesdays
12:00—12:30 pm
Feb. 21—Mar. 20**

For the link to these Weekly Lenten Prayer Gatherings, led by PA UCC Conference Ministers and UCC Staff Members, please contact the church office.



4 Conference Lenten Study Looking Back to Look Forward

The Penn West, Penn Central, Penn Northeast and Penn Southeast Conferences of the United Church of Christ cordially invite you to participate in this virtual Lenten opportunity! Meeting each Wednesday in Lent at 7pm, this Bible Study explores the foundations of our identity as Christians and members of the UCC as we explore what the future may hold! Each week is unique so if you cannot attend every date you can still participate in as many as you are able. **If you have any questions, or you would like to participate in this study, please email patty@pnec.org to receive the link.** Thank you!

February 21: Unity and Foundation

February 28: United Church of Christ

March 6: Lent in Context

March 13: The Priesthood of All Believers

March 20: Communion

FINANCIAL UPDATE

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	16,135.65
Overall Percent	71.7%

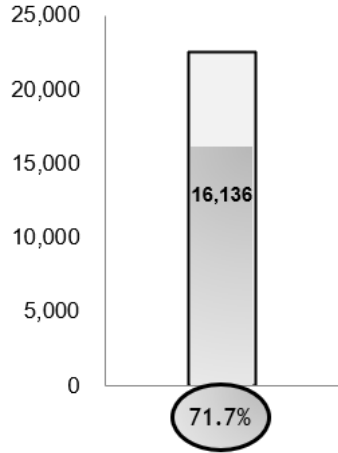
Last Week	
Start:	1/28/24
End:	2/3/24
Total:	1,642.00

Amt needed to reach Target

JANUARY 2024	6,364.35
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Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total



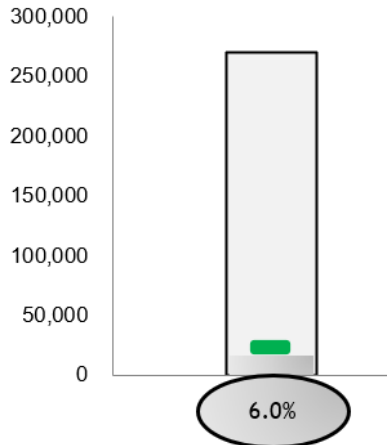
YTD OFFERINGS

JANUARY 2024

Overall	
Overall Target	270,000.00
On Track Target	22,500.00
Overall Total	16,135.65
Overall Percent	6.0%

Progress

- Overall Target
- Overall Total
- On Track Target



Church Calendar for the Week of Feb 4 through Feb 11

Sun 2/4	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship/Communion
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Annual Meeting/Potluck
Mon 2/5	6:00 pm	Personnel
Tues 2/6	9:30 am	Staff Meeting
	6:30 pm	Stewardship and Finance
Wed 2/7	9:00 am	Verso Chat
	6:30 pm	Zumba
	6:30 pm	STARs
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 2/8	6:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:00 pm	Choir
Sat 2/10	9:00 am	Zumba
Sun 2/11	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	9:30 am	Faith Formation
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation Newsletter Deadline

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjucf.org
Director of Music Ministries	Patrick Sandt music@sjucf.org
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjucf.org
Treasurer	Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst (FS) financialsecretary@sjucf.org (CC) custodians@sjucf.org
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello (W-MT) stars@sjucf.org (CNE) newsletter@sjucf.org
Custodian	Bob Czekner rczekner11@aol.com
Custodian	Christina Bach Ironton1@verizon.net